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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/020,932	12/19/2001	Mitsuyuki Goto	217593US2	9890

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EXAMINER

KRAMER, JAMES A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3627

DATE MAILED: 09/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/020,932	Applicant(s) GOTO ET AL.	
	Examiner James A. Kramer	Art Unit 3627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 July 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cukor et al. in view of Hahn-Carlson.

Cukor et al. teaches a shipment system including processing of document images. Cukor et al. teaches generating image data of a document on which a condition of exporting or importing of goods is described (see for example column 5, lines 37-42) and storing the image data (see for example column 5, lines 42-47).

Cukor et al. further teaches storing document data described on said document (see for example column 6, lines 49-56).

Cukor et al. teaches a data output step for outputting the images and the document data (see for example column 9, lines 18-35).

Cukor teaches said image data generation step generating said image data upon reception of said documents obtained as a result of execution of a physical distribution step (see for example column 10, lines 4-12). Examiner notes that the arrival of a shipment to the remote freight terminal represents a physical distribution step.

Cukor et al. does not teach a storing identification data that identifies a party concerned with export or import wherein the data output corresponds to a range of output enabled data associated with the concerned party wherein said output step includes the steps of, based on said decided range and said specified data relating to goods, obtaining image data of an associated one of a plurality of documents, and outputting said image data or said document data to a terminal of said concerned party to thereby display progress of a procedure relating to transfer of said goods on said terminal of said concerned party.

Hahn-Carlson teaches a shipment transaction system that store information associated with shipment transactions. The system of Hahn-Carlson includes allowing access to the information by authorized users in order to reduce administrative costs (see for example column 4, lines 15-20). To achieve this the system of Hahn-Carlson includes an authorized user profile list which stores information associated with each of the authorized users (see for example column 7, lines 44-52). The system then compares elements of transaction information with the authorized user list to determine what transaction information a user is authorized to view (see for example column 11, lines 17-22). Examiner notes that this represents Applicant's range of output enabled data associated with the concerned party.

Hahn-Carlson further teaches data with respect to "Date of Last Activity", "Current Status", "Current Status Date", and "Pending Status." (see for example TABLE 2). Examiner notes that this data, as well as their display to the authorized user represents Applicant's "wherein said output step includes the steps of, based on said decided range and said specified data relating to goods, obtaining image data of an associated one of a plurality of documents, and outputting said image data or said document data to a terminal of said concerned party to thereby

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display progress of a procedure relating to transfer of said goods on said terminal of said concerned party.”

Returning to Cukor et al. Examiner notes that Cukor teaches that it is common for shippers or consignees (concerned parties) to require that the shipping invoice be accompanied by copies of various documents, such as bill of lading, purchase order, or signed delivery receipt (see column 12, lines 25-29). To achieve this Cukor et al. downloads the images which are printed at the central station.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention modify the central station of Cukor et al. to allow access to the information (including “Date of Last Activity”, “Current Status”, “Current Status Date”, and “Pending Status”) by authorized user as taught by Hahn-Carlson. Specifically, it would have been obvious to include in the central processing station of Cukor et al. an authorized user list, and to compare transaction information with authorized user list thus determining what transaction information a user is authorized to view prior to displaying the information as taught by Hahn-Carlson. Examiner notes that this modification would be particularly helpful in providing the accompanying documents with the shipping invoice of Cukor et al. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the references in order to reduce administrative costs.

Cukor et al. teaches procedures for execution of importing and exporting goods (see for example column 12, lines 25-50). Examiner notes that attaching a list of required documents with a shipping invoice represents a procedure for the execution of importing and exporting

goods. However, Cukor et al. does not specifically teach storing as document data an execution date for the procedure.

Hahn-Carlson teaches identifying transaction procedures based on an effective date. In particular the effective date is store and associated with a transaction and payment process automatically begins on that date (execution of procedures associated with the date) (see for example column 13, lines 10-15) Hahn-Carlson teaches this expedites the payment process.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention modify the system of Cukor et al. to include the storage of an effective date (execution date) as taught by Hahn-Carlson. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the references in order to expedite the process of attaching the required documents.

In addition, Cukor teaches determining a type of generated image data, and when the determined type is different from a predetermined type, converting said image data to said predetermined type and storing converted image data (see column 7, lines 39-54).

Cukor et al. teaches that the invoicing is performed by the host computer (person who conducts the procedure) and received by the shipper or consignees (person who receives said procedure) (see column 12, lines 16-30).

With respect to claims 3 and 12, Cukor does not specifically teach that the output display information includes a diagram illustrating a person who is a recipient of said procedure. However Cukor includes such a diagram, see for instance Figure 1. Examiner notes that one of

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ordinary skill would recognize that such diagrams enhance the user experience. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the display information of Cukor to include a diagram such as the one taught in Figure 1 of Cukor. One of ordinary skill would have been motivated to modify the references in order to enhance the user experience.

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cukor in view of Hanh-Carlson as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Pure PDF.

The combination of Cukor and Hahn-Carlson does not specifically teach predetermined type as PDF. Examiner submits the article "Pure PDF" as evidence that at the time of the present invention the PDF document format was old and well known as ideal for cross-platform operations (see lines 9-10). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention to modify the predetermined format of Cukor to include PDF as taught to be old and well known by Pure PDF. One of ordinary skill would have been motivated to modify the references in order to produce a system ideal for cross-platform operations.

Response to Arguments

Applicant asserts that the prior art of record fails to teach “generating image data by reception of documents obtained as a result of execution of physical distribution step.” (see remarks with amendment filed 7/24/06, page 15, lines 20-22).

Examiner respectfully disagrees and notes that on Cukor column 10, lines 4-15 the reference teaches generating the image data upon the arrival of the shipment at the remote freight terminal. It is the Examiner’s position that such arrival of the shipment clearly represents a “physical distribution step.”

Applicant asserts that the prior art of record is “silent regarding the display of progress of a procedure relating to transfer of goods on a terminal of a concerned party.” Examiner notes that this is a newly added limitation. However, as pointed out with respect to the rejection of the claim 1, Hahn-Carlson teaches data with respect to “Date of Last Activity”, “Current Status”, “Current Status Date”, and “Pending Status.” (see for example TABLE 2). Examiner notes that this data, as well as their display to the authorized user represents Applicant’s “wherein said output step includes the steps of, based on said decided range and said specified data relating to goods, obtaining image data of an associated one of a plurality of documents, and outputting said image data or said document data to a terminal of said concerned party to thereby display progress of a procedure relating to transfer of said goods on said terminal of said concerned party.”

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With respect to claim 3, Applicant asserts that Figure 1 of '444 does "not a diagram displayed in a data output step that illustrates correspondence between a person who conducts a specified completed procedure and a person who is a recipient of the procedure as well as data representing the specified completed procedure." Examiner respectfully notes that the "data representing the specified completed procedure" need not be part of the diagram in order to properly anticipate the claim. In other words, to properly anticipate the claim the art need only show a diagram of a procedure and then provide some output which represents the completed procedure. This interpretation is important for understanding the present rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

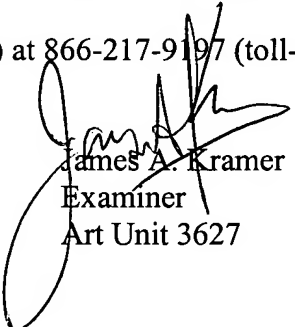
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James A. Kramer whose telephone number is (571) 272 6783.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (8AM - 5PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on (571) 272 6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


James A. Kramer
Examiner
Art Unit 3627

9/18/06

jak